

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing a bid manager, comprising the steps of:
 - 2 (a) managing a plurality of projects each including a plurality of tasks;
 - 3 (b) displaying the tasks associated with each project to solicit bids;
 - 4 (c) receiving bidder identifiers and bid amounts for each of the tasks; and
 - 5 (d) displaying a list of the tasks for each project with the associated bidder
 - 6 identifier and bid amount positioned adjacent each corresponding task.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of
2 calculating a total bid amount for each of the bidder identifiers, wherein the
3 total bid amount is calculated separately for each project.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of allowing
2 the acceptance of the bid amounts separately for each task on the list.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein the acceptance is transmitted to a
2 bidder utilizing an electronic mail message based on the bidder identifier.
- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein a link is included in the electronic
2 mail message for allowing the bidder to access a copy of the acceptance in a
3 database utilizing a network.
- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet, and the
2 link is a hyperlink.
- 1 7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the tasks are managed by a project
2 manager.

- 1 8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein the project manager is capable of:
2 providing a plurality of templates for initiating a project; allowing a user to
3 populate the template with task records each having at least one associated
4 task; and allowing the user to select the tasks to be displayed for bidding
5 purposes.
- 1 9. A computer program product for providing a bid manager, comprising:
2 (a) computer code for managing a plurality of projects each including a plurality
3 of tasks;
4 (b) computer code for displaying the tasks associated with each project to solicit
5 bids;
6 (c) computer code for receiving bidder identifiers and bid amounts for each of
7 the tasks; and
8 (d) computer code for displaying a list of the tasks for each project with the
9 associated bidder identifier and bid amount positioned adjacent each
10 corresponding task.
- 1 10. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for calculating a total bid amount for each of the bidder
3 identifiers, wherein the total bid amount is calculated separately for each
4 project.
- 1 11. The computer program product as recited in claim 9, and further comprising
2 computer code for allowing the acceptance of the bid amounts separately for
3 each task on the list.
- 1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the
2 acceptance is transmitted to a bidder utilizing an electronic mail message
3 based on the bidder identifier.

- 1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein a link is
2 included in the electronic mail message for allowing the bidder to access a
3 copy of the acceptance in a database utilizing a network.
- 1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the network is
2 the Internet, and the link is a hyperlink.
- 1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 11, wherein the tasks are
2 managed by a project manager.
- 1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the project
2 manager is capable of: providing a plurality of templates for initiating a
3 project; allowing a user to populate the template with task records each
4 having at least one associated task; and allowing the user to select the tasks
5 to be displayed for bidding purposes.
- 1 17. A system for providing a bid manager, comprising:
2 (a) logic for managing a plurality of projects each including a plurality of tasks;
3 (b) logic for displaying the tasks associated with each project to solicit bids;
4 (c) logic for receiving bidder identifiers and bid amounts for each of the tasks;
5 and
6 (d) logic for displaying a list of the tasks for each project with the associated
7 bidder identifier and bid amount positioned adjacent each corresponding
8 task.